



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

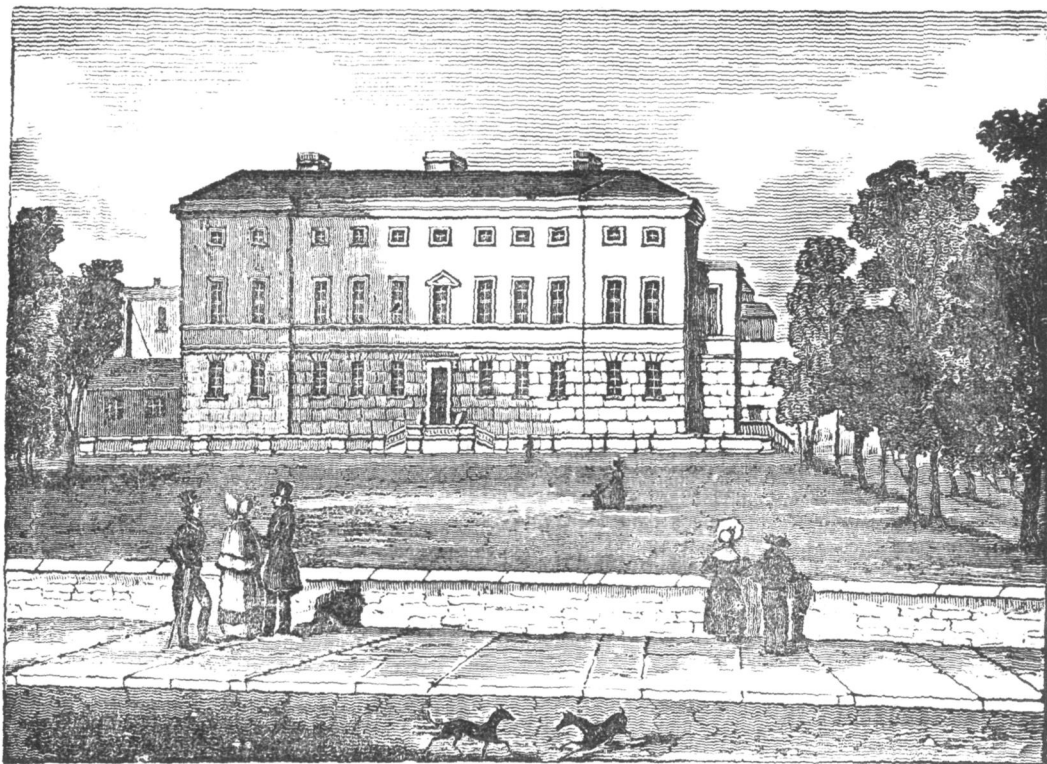
THE
DUBLIN PENNY JOURNAL

CONDUCTED BY P. DIXON HARDY, M.R.I.A.

VOL. IV.

OCTOBER 31, 1835.

NO. 174



ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY HOUSE, KILDARE-STREET.

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

This valuable Institution originated in the private meetings of a few eminent men, Dr. Prior, Dr. Madan, and others, in 1731, for scientific purposes, and was supported solely by their subscriptions for eighteen years. On April 2d, 1749, George II. granted a charter of incorporation, as the "Dublin Society, for promoting Husbandry and other useful Arts," and £500 per annum; since which period, parliament have lent liberal patronage and support: it is governed by a President (his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland,) and six Vice-Presidents. The Governors and Company of the Bank of Ireland are Treasurers; the officers are, seven Vice-Presidents, two Honorary Secretaries and an Assistant, a Professor and Lecturer on Botany and Agriculture, Professor of Chemistry, Professor and Lecturer on Mineralogy and Geology, Lecturer in Experimental Philosophy, Librarian, Master of the School for Ornament and Landscape Drawing, Master of the Figure School, Master of the School for Agricultural Drawing, Master for Sculpture, and Curator at the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. There is a General Meeting every Thursday at two o'clock, except during summer recess.

The subscription to become a member of the Society for life, is 20 guineas; the number of members is about 600. The original object of the institution was to encourage husbandry and all useful arts; and premiums are annually offered in various departments.

The first regular place of meeting used by the Society

VOL. IV.—NO. 18

was in Shaw's court, till October, 1767, when they removed to a convenient building which they had erected in Grafton-street; from this latter place they removed, in 1796, to Hawkins'-street, where they had built an edifice for their Repository, Laboratory, Galleries, Library, &c.

In 1815, the members of this patriotic institution purchased, for £20,000, the noble mansion of the Duke of Leinster, in Kildare-street, long celebrated as one of the most splendid private residences in Europe. A grand gateway of rustic masonry leads from Kildare-street into a spacious court, forming an immense segment of a circle before the principal front, which is 140 feet long by 70 deep. The front is richly decorated by Corinthian columns, an entablature, pediment, and balustrades, and the windows are all ornamented by architraves, &c. On each side, short Doric columns communicate with the chemical laboratory and lecture-rooms. A fine lawn, in the rear of the building, extends to Merrion-square, from which it is separated by a dwarf-wall. The interior fully corresponds with the external magnificence of this edifice.

HALL.

In three square niches, above the front arcade, are large busts of Nero, Vespasian, and Brutus; over one of the doors, on the right hand side, are busts of Mithridates, Alexander, and Homer; and on the adjacent chimney piece those of Plautia, the Farnese Hercules, and Galatea. Above one of the doors, on the opposite side, are

busts of Commodus, Pompey, and Marcus Aurelius; and above the other, those of two Senators, between which stands Ariadne. In the recesses of the arcades are Clytie and Niobe's daughter. There are also statues of the Belvidere Apollo, Venus de Medici, and Caligula, resting on pedestals. But the most interesting works in this part of the buildings, are the performances of several young artists, educated in the Society's schools; a few specimens of which we give in our following pages.

Prometheus chained to the rock, by Gallagher, is a classical conception, and is executed with ability. The busts of the late Serjeant Ball, Hamilton Rowan, — Reeves, Esq. Rev. Mr. Philip Taylor, and Mr. William Farren, have all been admired for their style, but more particularly for the extreme accuracy of the likenesses; and are all by the pupils of the Society's schools.

INNER HALL.

Within the arcade, in the great hall, and at either side of the door leading to the secretary's room, conversation and beard rooms, are statues of Apollo de Medici and Flora, on handsome pedestals. On the left is the door leading, by the principal staircase, to the Library and Museum; and on the right, as you ascend, is a model of the celebrated wooden bridge, at Schaffhausen in Switzerland, presented to the Society, in 1771, by Lord Bristol. The original, which was destroyed by the French in their retreat from Switzerland, was 365 feet in length; and consisted of two arches, whose chords measured, the one 172, the other 193 feet, which appear to spring from a pier in the centre, the remains of a stone bridge.

THE LIBRARY.

At the head of the stairs are the doors of the Library and Museum. The former is a noble apartment in the western wing, 64 feet by about 24 (independently of a semicircular recess), and surrounded by a light gallery. Here is an excellent collection of about 12,000 books, particularly rich in Botanical works: amongst which is a very valuable work, in four large folio volumes, "Gramina Austriaca," by Nicholas Thomas Host; the gift of the Duke of Bedford, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The MSS. are bound in 17 volumes: most of them are copies of those of Bishop Sterne, made by Walter Harris, the historian; from whose widow they were purchased by Parliament for £500, and presented to the Dublin Society: they contain copies of the Annals of Innisfallen and Multifernan, and several tracts on ancient Irish history. The only original documents known to exist in this collection, are those which formerly belonged to Archbishop King. Harris's catalogue of these MSS. is imperfect.—On pedestals, in the piers of the recess, stand two well-executed marble busts, by Van Nost, of Dr. Prior and Dr. Madan, the founders of the Society. There is a series of volumes in the Library, of which the Society may not improperly be styled the Authors, viz. the County Surveys; works undertaken at their instance, and published at their expense; some of which are deservedly esteemed.

THE MUSEUM.

This interesting and instructive collection occupies six rooms *en suite*.

The First Room contains a miscellaneous assemblage of curiosities. In a glass case, near the western window, is a mummy, in a very perfect state of preservation. The interior of the coffin-lid is adorned with grotesque figures and hieroglyphic characters, whose colouring is exceedingly vivid. Near this is a figure clad in the armour of one of the Tiger-guards of Tippoo Sultan. A curious Earthen Urn is shown, found by the late Bishop of Derry near his seat, Faughan, on Lough Swilly; it was full of bones and ashes, and was found beneath the stump of an oak tree, which was probably some centuries buried in the earth. In one of the flat cases may be seen, a curious ancient Irish regal sceptre, made of iron, inlaid with gold, which was found in a bog in the county of Clare. This relic was much admired by his Majesty, George IV., when he visited the Museum, and he is said to have examined it minutely. In the case of Irish curiosities, an old Bassoon is preserved, found in the ruins of Dunluce Castle. In the same case is a small brass figure, the head, arms, and

legs of which were formerly moveable; and a large silver brooch, with Ogham inscriptions on the back (described, in his Collectanea, by General Vallancey, who asserts these characters to be the names of certain Irish Kings); there are also several ancient Irish weapons.

At the blank-door, north-east angle, stand four brazen Lamas, taken from a Temple at Nepal, by Lieutenant Boileau, whose life paid the forfeit of his temerity, being shortly after poisoned by the Indians to punish what they deemed sacrilege.—A very beautiful specimen of the glossy Ibis—being one of three shot by Colonel Patrickson, near Ballymulney-house, in the county of Longford. Here is also a Golden Oriole, killed in the town of Wicklow, by Counsellor Coates: this bird is chiefly an inhabitant of Spain.

By far the most interesting object in this room is an entire skeleton of the fossil Elk of Ireland. It was found in marl, under peat, in the county of Limerick, and was presented to the Museum by Archdeacon Maunsell. The skulls and bones of this animal were far from rare in the marl; but it is seldom that materials are found for the construction of a perfect skeleton. In our 7th Number will be found a brief description of this great Fossil Deer.

In the windows are some beautiful specimens of stained glass, the gift and performance of Mr. M'Alister, who attained considerable eminence by his revival of this long lost art.* The interesting model of Stonehenge, and another model of as strange an Irish curiosity, a circular building, called the *stairs*, discovered in the county of Kerry, not many years since, have been removed below. In 1787 General Vallancey attempted an explanation of the application of the latter; and in 1811 Baron Foster, and Mr. Rochfort, commissioners for reclaiming the bogs of Ireland, procured careful sketches of the whole, from which this model was copied. The supposition of its having been a Milesian Amphitheatre in not confirmed by any reasoning of a satisfactory nature. Some pearls, found in various rivers through the kingdom, are also exhibited here. The best have been found in the River Ban in Ulster, and may probably explain the derivation of this river's name, "Ban signifying white."

The Second Room is dedicated to the animal kingdom. Over one of the cases lies extended the stuffed skin of the very Boa Constrictor, described by M'Leod, in his "Voyage of the Alceste." A yellow-breasted Martin; a large Otter, shot in Bray river; and a Chamois, in the warm clothing with which nature protects him from the rigours of the wintry season, in his Alpine country, presented by the Archduke John of Austria, are the most important objects in this room.

The Third Room contains the mineralogical portion of the collections. In this apartment are two very beautiful models of Chinese state pleasure-boats, made of ivory, mother of pearl, &c., the one representing a bird, the other a beast.

The Fourth Room is devoted to the Natural History of Greenland. Around, in splendid cases, are innumerable mineralogical specimens from the same terra inhospita; and in one of the windows are the head and tusks of that extraordinary animal, the Walrus. Many other interesting curiosities and natural productions are contained in this apartment, all of which were collected, during a residence of three years in Greenland and the Northern

* "The windows (of Lismore Cathedral) are of stained glass, richly and exquisitely executed, the work of a native artist, George M'Alister, of Dublin, who devoted his youth and talents to discover the lost art of painting on glass, and who died at an early age, after having made himself master of the secret."—Ryland's History of Waterford, p. 337. This young artist, who died at the age of 26, in 1812, was the son of the late Mr. John M'Alister, head porter of the University. The principal of his works are in the windows of the Cathedral of Tuam; where are full-length figures of the four Evangelists; Moses holding up the serpent in the Wilderness; the arms and crest of the Waterford family; one of the members of which, the Lord Decies, was Archbishop, at the period of the insertion of these windows: with various ornaments in the remaining windows.—See *Gent.'s Mag.* July 1812.

regions, by the late professor of Mineralogy, Sir Charles Giesecke, of whom there is, over the door opening to the corridor, an admirable portrait by Sir H. Raeburn.

The Fifth Room contains the remaining, or geological parts of the original Leskean collection. Besides the mineralogical specimens in this apartment, there are some very interesting antiques presented by the late George Latouche, Esq. Amongst these are ten large Etruscan Vases; one case of smaller ones; a case of various small urns, ornaments, and figures, all from the ruins of Pompeii. There are also seventy-four paintings on vellum, the subjects of which are copied from the different designs upon the Vases. There are three bronze figures, a Bacchanalian, a very beautiful Venus, and a mutilated figure not unlike the usual statue of Caracalla. Here is also a collection of Siberian polished stones, presented to the Society by Lord Whitworth, (when Lord Lieutenant, 2d January, 1817,) to whom they had been given by the Empress Catherine of Russia.

The Sixth Room, is the Museum Hibernicum; and contains mineralogical and geological specimens from the thirty-two counties of Ireland. Some Irish gold, from the Crohan Kinshela mine in the county of Wicklow, and a fac-simile of the largest piece ever found there. There are several parts of the Irish Moose Deer's antlers over the cases in this room, and one or two busts and figures. A small figure of the Right Honorable John Foster (Lord Oriel,) and busts of Archduke John of Austria, and the late Sir Charles Giesecke; the latter are not part of the Museum property.

The Chemical Laboratory is finished in the most modern and improved manner, and the apparatus is of the most scientific description, such as the learned professor is entitled to; here, an annual course of public lectures is delivered, and there is accommodation for 400 auditors.

The apartments appropriated to the use of members, are all *en suite* on the ground floor. They are the Board and Conversation rooms, Ante-room, and Secretary's office, or Sub-committee room. The Board room is a noble apartment, a little too low, but otherwise of fair proportions, sixty-seven feet by about thirty-six, with a rich ceiling, supported by columns at each end. In a spacious semicircular recess stands a fine canopied President's chair, richly carved and gilded, which formerly belonged to the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons: and here too is a full length portrait by Sir W. Beechey, of a nobleman who once so ably filled it, Lord Oriel, better known as the Right Honourable John Foster. Corresponding with this, is a portrait of Richard Kirwan, the face of which was painted by Hamilton.

Over the chimney-pieces are two small frames containing banditti scenes (small life,) in white marble, the one by Smyth, the other by Kirk. In the original grand entrance to this spacious room, and directly opposite to the President's chair, is a bust of his late Majesty, who visited this institution in August, 1821.

The Board-room communicates with the Conversation room, an apartment of considerable, though much inferior, dimensions, where is a portrait of a once distinguished member, and very meritorious antiquarian, General Vallancey. Here are likewise a series of forty-two architectural drawings from classic remains of antiquity, by Mr. Tracey, made at the expense of Henry Hamilton, Esq. of Fitzwilliam-square.

In the Ante-room is a portrait in crayons, of Counsellor Wolf; and two marble busts, one of Lord Chesterfield, the other of Mr. Maple, the first Secretary to the Society. In the Secretary's room is the collection of paintings presented to the Society by Thomas Pleasants, Esq. together with a portrait of himself, by Solomon Williams. In the collection are the following:—The Visitation of the Shepherds; the Dream; Narcissus; Joseph and Mary; two Landscapes by Barrett; two large Battle Pieces; two smaller Battle Pieces; the Magdalen in a Wilderness; St. Paul preaching; the Holy Family; Peg Woffington, by Sir Joshua Reynolds; Head of Captain Ram, by Hogarth, &c. Also two plates of plaster of Paris Medals, Swift, (said to be a faithful likeness,)

Malone, Sparks, Woodward, Ryder; and a statue of Handel.

The Drawing Schools are held in a range of buildings erected for their reception, in 1825, under the superintendence of the Society's architect, Mr. Baker. The entrance is beneath the northern colonnade adjoining the lawn: the entire building measures 127 feet, disposed in the following manner: a vestibule twenty feet by ten, a stair-case, leading to a spacious and lofty gallery, ninety feet by thirty, in which the collection of statuary is arranged. In a niche, at the end of this noble apartment, is placed Behnes's statue of his late Majesty. On the basement story is the school-room, forty feet by thirty. All the apartments are warmed by heated air; the front is towards the lawn, and is neatly finished to imitate granite.

The Drawing School is divided into four departments—landscape, figure, modelling, and architecture—to which is added a school of sculpture or modelling; over each of these a different master presides, who gives instruction three times each week, and three hours at each sitting. The pupils of the figure school are occasionally provided with a living figure, to perfect their sketches of the human frame, and all this is gratuitous. About two hundred pupils partake of this advantage, and from the exhibitions of native genius and education presented at the annual display of drawings formerly made in the Society's house, the beneficial consequences were manifest.

Botany early became a favorite subject with the Society, and for the purposes of a garden a considerable piece of land at Glasnevin, about one mile from Dublin, at the north side of the city, was purchased and laid out, nearly forty years ago. We shall take occasion, in some future Number, with a drawing, to give a correct description of the Gardens. At present we shall only say, that an eminent professor delivers lectures both in Dublin and in the garden, during the spring season, which are free to the public. This garden contains twenty-seven acres, twenty perches English, or sixteen acres, two roods, thirty-nine perches, Irish; and is inferior, in size, to but one of the same description, that is, the Botanic garden in Jamaica; the ground has every advantage in quality of soil, and variety of surface, and is watered by a well-supplied stream, the river Tolka. This interesting garden is now being renovated and considerably remodelled under the superintendence of Mr. Niven, the lately appointed Curator.

One of the most important objects of this Institution, is the cultivation of mineralogy; to promote which the Society purchased, in the year 1792, the museum of M. Leske, Professor of Natural History at Marburg, a distinguished pupil of Werner; this collection was subsequently improved by the celebrated Kirwan. The classification of the minerals is Werner's, and is as follows:—

1. Characteristic collection. 2. The Systematic. 3. Geological. 4. Geographical. 5. Economical. The Irish minerals form a distinct collection, distributed according to the arrangement of the thirty-two counties, and is called "Museum Hibernicum." This valuable collection of specimens is open to students at all hours, and to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays, from twelve to three o'clock. Doctor Scouler is the present professor.

Annual Courses of Lectures, open to the public, are delivered by the Professors and Lecturers, from whom and the House keeper, tickets can be had.—Chemistry; 1st Course commences the first Tuesday in November; 2d Course, first Tuesday in January.—Mineralogy; first Monday in March.—Natural Philosophy; 1st Course, first Tuesday in March; 2d Course, first Tuesday in May.—Botany, 1st Course, first Monday in May; 2d Course, second Tuesday in June.—Mining; first Tuesday in February.

The following departments are open to the Public;—Museum, on Tuesdays and Fridays from twelve to three.—Room of Statuary and Elgin Casts, Tuesdays and Saturdays from twelve to three.—The Library, on introduction to the Librarian.—Botanic Gardens, on Tuesdays and Fridays from twelve to four; but a member can introduce visitors at any time.